

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 AID-05 L-02 /070 W

----- 019049

R 182130Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1078

DEA HQS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7024

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SNAR

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES

FROM THE AMBASSADOR TO THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 233134

1. SUMMARY. AS REQUESTED IN YOUR MESSAGE I HAVE REVIEWED THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS MISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE DRUG PROGRAM AND AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO REPORT THAT PROGRESS TOWARD OUR GOALS IN CHILE IN THIS AREA HAS BEEN VERY MARKED IN THE LAST 14 MONTHS. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF CHILE HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO THE ERADICATION OF THE ILLEGAL NARCOTIS TRAFFIC BOTH WITHIN CHILE AND TO THE UNITED STATES, AND HAS COOPERATED EFFECTIVELY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY WITH US IN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING TRAFFIC. CHILE ITSELF IS NOT A PRODUCER OF NARCOTICS, AND ITS OWN RELATIVELY MINOR INTERNAL DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM HAS RECEIVED APPROPRIATE ATTENTION FROM THE GOC. WE BELIEVE THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM PRESENTLY BEING CARRIED OUT IN CHILE IS APPROPRIATE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT SUCH MINOR PROBLEMS AS EXIST ARE UNDER ATTACK AND SOLUBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. THIS MISSION HAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY AND IN DETAIL IN THE
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PAST YEAR ON THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN CHILE AND ON MISSION

NARCOTICS PROGRAMS. (THESE REPORTS INCLUDE NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PLAN IN A-23 DTD JAN 23, 1974; NARCOTICS CONTROL REPORT A-142 DTD JULY 16, 1974; AND FISCAL YEAR 1976 PROGRAM IN A-163 DTD AUG 30, 1974) ALL OF OUR REPORTS HAVE NOTED HIGH PRIORITY GIVEN BY GOC TO ATTACK ON NARCOTICS TRADE, BOTH DOMESTIC AND EXPORT. GOC HAS COMMITTED EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNT OF ATTENTION, RESOURCES AND PUBLICITY TO PROGRAM, GIVEN ITS PREOCCUPATION WITH SERIOUS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OF COUNTRY. OUR VERY EFFECTIVE DEA REPRESENTATION IN MISSION HAS RECEIVED FULLEST CO-OPERATION FROM GOC AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND HAS CONTRIBUTED IN OUTSTANDING MANNER TO JOINT GOC-USG SUCCESSES AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. BEST EVIDENCE OF GOC CO-OPERATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF DEA OFFICERS HERE IS PRESENCE IN US CUSTODY OF SOME 20 MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS EXPELLED BY GOC FROM CHILE AT OUR REQUEST. WE ESTIMATE DRUG TRAFFIC (PRIMARILY COCAINE) FROM CHILE TO US HAS BEEN CUT SEVERELY IN THIS CAMPAIGN.

3. GOC HAS ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT NARCOTICS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLELY A MATTER OF US CONCERN AND HAS FOCUSED ATTENTION ON DOMESTIC DRUG USE. THIS REMAINS RELATIVELY MINOR PROBLEM INVOLVING MARIJUANA AND THE VARIOUS "PILLS" RATHER THAN HARD DRUGS, BUT GOC IS ALERT TO IT. MISSION HAS MADE CLEAR TO GOC THAT USG IS PREPARED TO ASSIST TO EXTENT POSSIBLE AS GOC FORMULATES CONCRETE PLANS AND NEEDS. CHILEAN PUBLIC OPINION IS AWARE OF NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND FAVORS ITS CONTROL. MISSION HAS NOT PROGRAMMED NARCOTICS INFORMATION EFFORT IN VIEW OF FULLY SATISFACTORY GOC AND CHILEAN PUBLIC ATTITUDES.

4. PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY MINOR. ON CHILEAN SIDE THERE HAS BEEN NEED FOR DESIGNATION OF BUDGET RESOURCES SPECIFICALLY FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES RATHER THAN LUMPING NARCOTICS EFFORT INTO GENERAL POLICE BUDGET. ALSO, THE TWO MAJOR CHILEAN POLICE AGENCIES INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT HAVE NOT CO-OPERATED WELL TOGETHER. UNOFFICIAL MEDIATION AND COORDINATION OF MISSION'S DEA OFFICE HAS GREATLY REDUCED NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THIS PROBLEM, AND GOC NOW HAS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION CREATION OF SINGLE UNIFIED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SIMILAR TO DEA. WE BELIEVE CREATION OF SUCH A UNIT IS AN EXCELLENT IDEA AND WOULD FURTHER IMPROVE ALREADY VERY EFFECTIVE CHILEAN ENFORCEMENT EFFORT. REPORT ON CHILEAN CONCEPT IS BEING MADE TO DEA REGIONAL OFFICE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CARACAS THROUGH DEA CHANNELS.

5. PROBLEMS ON US SIDE HAVE CAUSED SOME DIFFICULTY AND EVEN OCCASIONAL EMBARRASSMENT. TWO DEA OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO SANTIAGO HAVE BARELY BEEN ABLE HANDLE HEAVY WORKLOAD AND RESPOND TO DEMANDS FOR ADVICE, LEADERSHIP, AND COORDINATION FROM CHILEAN AGENCIES, DESPITE DEDICATED EFFORT IN DIPLOMATICALLY SENSITIVE AND SOMETIMES PHYSICALLY DANGEROUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUGS. PRO-

GRAMMED ASSIGNMENT DURING FY-1975 OF MORE DEA PERSONNEL IS WEL-COMED BY MISSION AND PROMISES EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE COOPERATION WITH GOC AGENCIES.

6. GOC EXPULSION OF MANY OF MOST NOTORIOUS TRAFFICKERS, INCLUDING CHILEAN NATIONALS, INTO US CUSTODY AND AT US REQUEST, SHOWS EXTRAORDINARY GOOD WILL OF GOC. SUCH EXPULSIONS HAVE PERMITTED US TO BYPASS COMPLICATED AND TIME-CONSUMING EXTRADITION PROCESS AT SOME COST TO GOC IN TERMS OF CHILEAN LEGAL TRADITIONS AND POTENTIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS WITH ITS OWN PEOPLE. WE REALIZE THAT THE MANY OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN PROCESSING THESE CASES IN THE UNITED STATES ARE WORKING UNDER GREAT PRESSURE AND, OF COURSE, HAVE TO COMPLY WITH RELEVANT US LEGAL PROCEDURES. I WOULD ONLY ASK THAT THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES OF GOC BE KEPT IN MIND TO EXTENT POSSIBLE IN WORKING ON THESE CASES, IN ORDER TO AVOID DAMAGE TO OUR OVERALL RELATIONS WITH CHILE, AND AVOID OFFENDING THE VERY CHILEAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE COOPERATED MOST EFFECTIVELY WITH US IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFICKERS. RECENT, WELL PUBLICIZED CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY IN REQUEST FOR EXPULSION MADE TO GOC ("CHINO CHOY"), AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS, HAVE NOW PASSED WITHOUT DAMAGING OUR RELATIONSHIP, BUT IT WAS BITTERLY RESENTED HER AT THE TIME.

7. IN SUMMARY, I BELIEVE THAT US NARCOTICS EFFORTS IN CHILE ARE APPROPRIATE, ECONOMICAL IN USE OF RESOURCES, AND NOTABLY SUCCESSFUL.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA07024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740333-0445
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741134/aaaabcne.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 233134
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES FROM THE AMBASSADOR TO THE SECRETARY
TAGS: SNAR, CI
To: STATE DEA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005